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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TC/ART UNIT 1731**

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

ERIC MIES ET AL.

Application No.: 10/717,856

Filed: November 19, 2003

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
FORMING LOW OPTICAL LOSS  
SPLICES

Examiner: John Hoffmann

TC/Art Unit: 1731

April 25, 2005

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

a Listing of the Claims begins on page 2; and

Remarks begin on page 6.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on:

April 25, 2005

(date of transmission)

James F. Dobrow

(printed name)

(signature)